



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief Strachan's Weekly Update

Last Friday night, Officer Matt Thuring responded to an address on 11th St for a report of a domestic violence assault. The victim had obvious injuries including several serious bite marks, and she reported a long history of abuse. The man had fled the area on foot before officers arrived. Kitsap County Sheriff's K-9 Deputy Hedstrom responded with his partner Titan and started tracking the man, and after 45 minutes in the rainy conditions, Deputy Hedstrom and Titan found the abuser hiding under some bushes down by the water in Evergreen Park. Officer Chris Faidley assisted in arresting this tough guy, and he went to jail.

Also on Friday, officers responded to multiple mental health calls, including one that was dispatched originally as a domestic dispute. The caller said she could hear people arguing loudly. When he arrived, Officer Trevor Donnelly could overhear a woman inside the house shouting, "What, you don't think that I'll do it. You don't think I'd actually kill myself. Watch this!" Officer Donnelly relayed this information to other officers, and without hesitation they made forced entry into the house. The woman turned out to be in the house by herself and was arguing with her husband, and threatening suicide in real time, via Skype while he was deployed in the Navy. Unfortunately, it took several officers to restrain her. She was eventually taken to the hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Last Saturday night was rainy. Really rainy. Below is a photo of officers trying to clear a storm drain to assist public works, and officer responded to minor flooding in several areas of town.



Detectives cleared the third of three bank robberies that occurred in our City in October - very unusual to have that many, and two people have been arrested. Great work. The press release is available on the [City's website](#).

[Click here](#) for a link to an incident in Colorado Springs where a man carrying a rifle shot three people in the street. You may recall a news article a few months ago about a man in our City who regularly carries a rifle slung over his shoulder, and the balance we need to strike between the State law which allows open carry of firearms, and the real fear that people have when they see it, based on so many recent incidents involving shootings around the nation. Capt. Tom Wolfe sent this article to our officers this week, along with the following message. I think it's important and helps define the difficult circumstances our officers face all the time:

This article from Colorado sounds too much like our own open carry here. We take calls all day long of a guy walking with a rifle, and it is legal to do so. It has been my experience in listening and watching the BPD response that we are responding each time and checking to make certain. Cencom dispatches it to us over and over, knowing it is probably just the same guy. We have to go the extra mile on these calls because it is really the worst possible set up for Law Enforcement. We have to respond and make sure the guy carrying a gun around town is not going to hurt people, when the open carry of a gun in this day and age with all the school, theater, mall and public place shootings suggests exactly the opposite. For us the reasonable approach should be guns drawn and prone the guy out to secure the weapon, make it safe then investigate. But no - it is his right to open carry. I just wanted to point out that you have been doing the impossible here in Bremerton and this state for some time now, and we have maintained safety and not violated rights. Well done; doing the impossible. - Capt. Tom Wolfe

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Christopher Faidley
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Finally, this week our newest addition to the department, Officer Derek Ejde, graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in Burien. Lts. Pete Fisher and Luis Olan joined me in attending the ceremony, where Derek received his certificate and was recognized as the #1 graduate in the class! Derek, and his brother Jordan who is already working for us at BPD, are both sons of retired Kitsap County Deputy Andrew Ejde. Jordan and Derek are pictured below at the graduation - Derek is the taller and better looking one. Congratulations Derek and welcome to the BPD team!



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